

of and advocacy for the Secretary's initiatives, both within the Navy and externally through the news media.

He is a strategic thinker who is action-oriented. Captain Connor's professional excellence, diligence, and loyalty have made him a great asset to the U.S. Navy. I take this opportunity to wish him well upon his retirement from the Navy and for continued success. He has truly been a role model for public affairs officers who follow him.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of thousands of committed citizens in California's 40th Congressional District. San Bernardino County, the largest county in the continental United States make a difference on October 26, 1996, with an ambitious project entitled, "Community Cleanup: Our Fight Against Blight." For this ambitious undertaking, the San Bernardino Make a Difference Day project was recently chosen as one of the top 10 national winners by USA Weekend Magazine and a panel of celebrity judges. This tremendous effort will be recognized at a luncheon on May 1 recognizing outstanding achievements during national Make a Difference Day.

The San Bernardino Make a Difference project was launched at a time when the local newspaper, the San Bernardino County Sun, ran a series of well-written articles addressing the issue of blight in the local community. The result was a countywide effort undertaken on national Make a Difference Day. The remarkable effort to undertake a community cleanup was spearheaded by the city of San Bernardino and Mayor Tom Minor in a collaborative effort with Norcal/San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, Arrowhead United Way, the Volunteer Center, and the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce. Twenty-four cities in San Bernardino County embraced the concept with proclamations and letters of support from local mayors. Twenty-two community newspapers and five radio stations promoted the project with public service announcements and press releases. To encourage citizen participation, 16 country landfills were open free of charge to residents on October 26. The result was more than 3.5 thousand tons of trash, including 5,000 tires, deposited at county landfills.

In addition to the many county residents who participated, about 130 volunteers worked on 10 other related projects. Paul Chaney, a private business owner, with the assistance of other volunteers from the Children's Fund and the Volunteer Center, picked up trash along a 2-mile stretch of Little Mountain. Employees of Raintree Insurance Co. and a youth group from the Nazarene Church painted graffiti in various sections of San Bernardino. While a Girl Scout troop cleaned up a local creek and filed a commercial dump truck, members of Los Padrinos cleaned, trimmed, weeded, and hauled away trash for elderly citizens. Thirteen neighborhood association groups in San

Bernardino also picked up trash and painted graffiti in and around their neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable effort is 1 of 11 chosen from over one million participants nationwide joining in national Make a Difference Day. The many fine people of San Bernardino County have made a difference, and will continue to make a difference, to improve the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely proud of this effort and it is only fitting that House of Representatives recognize this achievement today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall votes 86, 87, 88, and 89 on Wednesday, April 23, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BAKER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made it his professional mission to serve the State of California and its 32 million people. William Baker, whose career has spanned more than three decades, will be retiring this year as vice president of university and external relations for the University of California system.

Ever since starting work for UC some 33 years ago, Bill has been a steady force, helping to guide the university through its most formative years. Now with nine campuses, five teaching hospitals, and the three national laboratories it manages for the Federal Government, UC's \$10 billion budget is larger than that of many States. Bill has been instrumental in maintaining the university's prominence as one of the top university systems in the country. I speak from personal knowledge, when I say that Bill Baker is an influential voice for education on Capitol Hill.

A fourth-generation Californian and a native of Berkeley, Bill is a 1958 civil engineering graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. It was as an undergraduate that he began his university career as a mail clerk under former UC President Robert Gordon Sproul. Bill went on to become a licensed civil engineer and worked as a State engineer on the restoration of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Bill returned to university service in 1964 as an associate engineer in UC's systemwide office. In 1974, he was named director for capital improvements planning and budgeting, and was named assistant vice president for budget, analysis, and planning and special assistant to the president on April 1, 1979. He was named vice president for budget and university relations by former President David Gardner on October 1, 1983. Bill assumed his current title in 1993.

Besides his professional pursuits, Bill has found time to give even more back to the peo-

ple of both his State and country. Active in numerous national and State associations supporting higher education, he also participates on a State and national level as a mediator and arbitrator in the construction industry. Bill is a member of the board of directors of the California Council on Science and Technology, which I created with Bill's leadership, and of the American Arbitration Association. He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about Bill Baker. To me, he embodies the very best in public service. Committed and compassionate, Bill has demonstrated every day and in every way that the best way to advance the public good is by doing good for the public. We are fortunate to have been touched by his works. He is a "true blue."

HONORING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute five outstanding young women from the 18th district of Illinois who will be honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts in Peoria on May 4, 1997. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting, symbolizing outstanding achievements in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12. The recipients of this award at this time are Angela Hess of Girl Scout Troop No. 301, Renee Hinnen of Girl Scout Troop No. 4, Rebecca Roth of Girl Scout Troop No. 345, Katy Rodgers of Girl Scout Troop No. 257, and Amy Hale of Girl Scout Troop No. 357.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the Gold Award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

In the process of earning their Gold Awards, these Girl Scouts made significant contributions to their community. Angela Hess completed her project by working with a local children's hospital in planning activities for the children and then doing the activities with them. Renee Hinnen planned, organized, and implemented the registration, snack time, and lunch time activities for the Isaac Walton League's "Kids in the Woods" program. Rebecca Roth planned and implemented a sports and games day for the purpose of recruiting others to become Girl Scouts. Katy Rodgers taught dance to underprivileged children who cannot afford lessons, and Amy Hale organized a reference library at her church, and designed study sheets for Sunday school